

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00738 221913Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 IO-14 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /119 W
-----080507 230311Z /63

R 221834Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4350
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 738

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT NS
SUBJ: ARRON DEFENDS GOVERNMENT POLICY

1. PARLIAMENT HAVING COMPLETED ITS FIRST ROUND OF
DEBATE ON THE ARRON CABINET'S POLICY STATEMENT OF MARCH 15,
PRIME MINISTER ARRON DELIVERED HIS GOVERNMENT'S
REPLY TO THE LEGISLATURE ON MAY 19. BESIDES THE EXPECTED
DEFENSE OF THE POLICIES HE WILL FOLLOW OVER THE NEXT
FOUR YEARS, ARRON ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO SOME OF THE
POINTS RAISED BY THE OPPOSITION.

2. WITH REGARD TO OPPOSITION CALLS FOR REFORM OF THE
ELECTORAL SYSTEM, ARRON SAID THAT MANY OTHER COUNTRIES
HAVE SYSTEMS SIMILAR TO THAT OF SURINAM, ARRON CALLED
SURINAM'S APPROACH PROGRESSIVE AND SIMPLER FOR CABINET
FORMATION PURPOSES. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE
CERTAIN "UNEVENNESSES" IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM WHICH CAN BE
REMOVED.

3. ARRON REFERRED TO SURINAM'S ADMISSION TO THE UN
AND REAFFIRMED SURINAM'S DESIRE TO BE INCLUDED AMONG
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DEVELOPING THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WHILE
NOTING THAT SURINAM IS COUNTED AMONG THE CATEGORY
OF MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF ITS PER CAPITA
GNP OF MORE THAN \$1000 (\$1370, ACCORDING TO ARRON), WHICH
HE SAID IS THE SECOND HIGHEST--AFTER TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO--IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA. SURINAM, ADDED ARRON,
HAD UNDERESTIMATED ITS POSITION IN THE WORLD AND FROM

TALKS WITH PROMINENT FOREIGNERS IT APPEARS THAT SURINAM'S EXPERIENCE IN LIVING WITH OTHERS CAN ENABLE IT TO PLAY A "PEACELOVING" ROLE IN THE WORLD. ARRON IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT WITH REGARD TO RELATIONS WITH GUYANA, SURINAM WILL ITSELF TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO ENGAGE IN TALKS WITH THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT.

4. TWO MORE ROUNDS OF DEBATE, MORE SEVERLY LIMITED IN TIME THAN WAS THE CASE FOR THE FIRST ROUND, REMAIN BEFORE PARLIAMENT COMPLETES ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STATEMENT. IT IS HOPED THAT THIS PROCESS CAN BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF MAY.
ZURHELLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, EXECUTIVE BRANCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARAMA00738
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780216-0348
Format: TEL
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780533/aaaabbqt.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0ab68a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2616058
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARRON DEFENDS GOVERNMENT POLICY
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, NS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0ab68a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014